Critical Care Simulation Scenarios for Nurse Practitioner Orientation

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Objectives

- Identify how to establish unit specific simulation scenarios
- List the steps involved in creating simulation scenarios
- Identify resources and support to create and sustain simulation scenarios

Background

- Training new critical care nurse practitioners in a timely manner requires a formal orientation program structured to meet both the unique needs of each unit and each new nurse practitioner.
- Simulation offers many benefits including performance-based components of clinical performance by creating conditions that are very similar to real situations without placing patients at risk.
- The approximate cost of replacing one nurse practitioner is $125,000 and the total operating cost of the pilot orientation program is approximately $40,000.

Purpose

Describe the development of critical care simulation scenarios for use during nurse practitioner orientation as part of a pilot program.

Methods

- Focus group interviews of new and experienced critical care nurse practitioners to determine most commonly encountered high-risk clinical situations.
- Incorporate evidence based practice in the scenarios and debriefing to maintain quality and safety

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Group Interview Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Critical Care Simulation Scenarios</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acute Respiratory Failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acute Coronary Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acute Stroke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypovolemic Shock, hemorrhagic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distributive Shock, sepsis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiogenic Shock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obstructive Shock, cardiac tamponade</td>
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Building Scenarios

- Create patient
- Identify objectives and critical actions
- Write case summary
- List props
- Establish case flow
- Plan debriefing

Discussion

- A strategy that incorporates the needs of the individual unit, the new employee and the specified patient population provides a framework for development
- Establishing a consistent approach to scenario development supports efficient use of time and labor.
- Developing relationships through effective communication and team building creates a momentum that adds to the success of the simulation scenarios.

Conclusions

- Simulation scenarios are an effective tool to recreate high-risk clinical situations for critical care nurse practitioner orientation and to increase knowledge and confidence
- Evidence-based practice embedded in the scenario supports quality practice and promotes patient safety.

References


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